GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1790
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
INDO-FRENCH COOPERATION FOR FIGHTING TERRORISM
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of India and the President of France held telephonic talks on September 22, 2001 about combating terrorism;

(b) if so, the issues discussed;

(c) whether both India and France have common approach to combat terrorism in the world;

(d) if so, whether any action plan has been worked out by both the countries in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

a) & b) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister and President Chirac of France held a telephonic conversation on 22nd September 2001.Both the leaders discussed the developments in the international coalition against terrorism in the aftermath of the 11th September terrorist attacks in USA.

c), d) & e) India and France have a similar approach towards combating international terrorism and are coordinating efforts bilaterally and in multilateral fora. India has supported the International Convention for the Suppression of Funding of Terrorism, which had been sponsored by France at the UN.France has been supportive of the Indian draft comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism, currently under discussion at the UN. Both countries have also established a bilateral Joint Working Group on International Terrorism, the first meeting of which was held in Paris on September 7th, 2001.